

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SCCT-01 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05

/095 W

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R 121540Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0045

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, JO, PLO

SUBJECT: JORDAN PARLIAMENT: NEW PLO POSITION

REF A. CAIRO 1684, B. CAIRO 1773

1. AS OF MORNING FEBRUARY 12, PLO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON
JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT APPEARED CONTRADICTION. TO RECAP:

A. Wafa PRESS RELEASE OF FEBRUARY 9 WAS DISTRIBUTED IN
CAIRO ON LETTERHEAD OF FATAH'S CAIRO OFFICE AND CARRIED
FATAH STAMP. RELEASE ANNOUNCED PLO'S SURANI AND FATAH'S
AWAD HAD DELIVERED NOTE TO FAHMY ON INSTRUCTIONS OF ARAFAT,
CHAIRMAN PLO EXCOMM, CONDEMNING JORDANIAN MEASURE, SERIOUS
DIMENSIONS OF WHICH CONSTITUTE GRAVE THREAT TO PLO AND WHOLE
CAUSE. EGYPT SHOULD SHOULDERS ITS "NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY"
IN LIGHT OF ALGIERS AND RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS, WHICH GOJ

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HAS FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED.

B. SYRIAN DAILY AL-BA'ATH AND DAMASCUS RADIO THEN REPORTED ARAFAT DENIED DISPATCHING ANY SUCH NOTE TO FAHMY AND THAT EGYPT HAS FABRICATED STORY TO SOW SEEDS OF DISSENSION.

C. MEANWHILE SA'IQA'S MUHSIN WAS ANNOUNCING HUSAIN'S ACTION HAD PRIOR APPROVAL OF PLO AND SARG.

2. IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION FEBRUARY 12, FAHMY PRODUCED CABLE FROM ARAFAT IN WHICH ARAFAT CLAIMED HE HAD NEVER MADE STATEMENT TO SYRIAN PAPER AL-BA'ATH (OR PRESUMABLY ANYWHERE ELSE) DISCLAIMING NOTE DELIVERED BY SURANI AND AWAD, WHICH CONDEMNED HUSAIN'S ACTION. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN TELL US FAHMY TOLD HIM THAT FOLLOWING AL-BA'ATH REPORT, FAHMY HAD CONTACTED ARAFAT, WARNING HIM, IF HE DID NOT TELL THE TRUTH FAHMY WOULD HIMSELF DISCLOSE WHAT HAD AHHPENED. SOME UNNAMED PLO ENVOY ARRIVED EVENING FEBRUARY 11 FROM BEIRUT AND ARAFAT CABLE APPARENTLY ARRIVED ABOUT THE SAME TIME. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALSO TOLD US FAHMY HAD SUGGESTED THAT SYRIA'S GUIING MOTIVATION AT PRESENT IS TO GET GOLAN II NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY.

3. LEADING EGYPTIANS IN ASSEMBLY, PRESS, AND MFA PROFESS THEIR CONVICTION THAT PLO HAS SERIOUSLY SPLIT OVER THIS ISSUE. SA'IQA AND FATAH ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE FENCE. FAHMY APPARENTLY TOLD COMMITTEE THAT HE REGARDS SITUATION AS NOW "SERIOUS". IF SO, GOE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT THIS SPLIT TO WOO FATAH AND ULTIMATELY CLEANSE PLO OF RADICALS AND ESPECIALLY OF SYRIAN INFLUENCE. WHAT SURPRISES US IS THAT, GIVEN DELICATE SITUATION IN LEBANON, ARAFAT WOULD CHOOSE THIS MOMENT TO CHALLENGE SARG WITHIN PLO. PERHAPS HE BELIEVES HE MUST SOONER OR LATER TAKE A STAND IF HE IS TO REMAIN IN CHARGE OF MOVEMENT HE CREATED. EILTS

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